Vol. VIII. Numb. 67

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Account of the Battel of Blaregnies *by the* Paris Gazette, *and of the Valour of the pretended King of* England *in it. On the Uppiſhneſs of the* French *Faction here on that Account, and the unaccountable Encouragement they have from ſome among us. That Faction greater Enemies to their Country, than the Papiſts in Queen* Elizabeth's *Days, who oppos'd the* Spaniſh *Invaſion. Farther Remarks on the opening the Play-houſe again; and Inſtances of their Contempt of God and the Government.*

From Saturday, September 17. to Wednesday, September 21. 1709.

Country-m. THE Faction who are for a *French* Government, and a Popiſh Prince, have their Hearts rais'd a Foot higher than 'twas, Maſter, by the Repreſentation the *Paris Gazette* gives of the late Battel; and eſpecially of the Valour of our pretended King, who they ſay charg'd ſix Times at the Head of a Body of Horſe.

Obſ. The *French* Court kept their Gazetteer ſilent eleven Days on Purpoſe, *Roger*, that they might have Time to cook up that Story to ſuit the Taſte of our good-natur'd loyal Faction, who they know are as ready to ſwallow Falſhoods, as they are to tell them; but if the *French* had ſo much Advantage as they pretend to, why did they not purſue it? Have they ſtill a Mind to baulk their *St. Germains* King? Why did they not ſecond his Efforts with their Troops ſo full of Spirit? How comes it to paſs, that they ſuffer a broken and ſhatter'd Army to carry on the Siege of *Mons* in the View of their Troops, fluſh'd with ſo much Succeſs, animated by the Preſence of ſuch a brave young King, and by the Conduct of ſuch Heroes as M. *de Bouffl rs*, and M. *de Villars*? Why han't they publiſh'd the Liſt of their Slain and Wounded, and of the Colours, Standards, and great Guns they have taken, as the Allies have done on their Side? By this you may ſee the miſerable Condition of the Court and Kingdom of *France*, *Roger*, when they are under a Neceſſity of having Recourſe to ſuch miſerable Shifts to keep up the Spirits of their wretched People. With what Face can they ſay we did not gain one Inch of Ground, when we took *Bavay* with 1500 Priſoners immediately after the Battel, and when they could not carry off their Wounded without our Leave, and that too under the harſh Condition of being accountable to us for them as Priſoners of War? If our Faction can believe the *Paris Gazetteer*, after ſuch convincing Proofs of his Falſhood, they are fit to ſwallow Tranſubſtantiation.

Country-m. You know their Friend the *Rehearſal*, according to the commendable Practice of Dr. *Heylin*, in his Introduction to the Life of Arch-biſhop *Laud*, and others of that Faction, has been preparing them a long Time to believe that and other Popiſh Doctrines, Maſter; ſo that they are as fit as the *French* can wiſh to embrace both their Religion and Government, are glad of the leaſt Appearance of Succeſs on the Side of *France*, and greedily ſwallow down their Falſhoods, how coarſly ſoever they be varniſh'd over.

Obſ. This puts me in Mind, *Roger*, of a Letter I receiv'd from a learned Gentleman ſome Time ago, wherein he took Notice, that our preſent Faction is much worſe than our Papiſts were in Q. *Elizabeth*'s Time. To this Purpoſe, he quoted a Paſſage from *Hugo Grotius*, *de Rebus Belgicis*, wherein that Great Man obſerv'd, that however the *Engliſh* Catholicks might differ in Religion, yet none of them were ſo imprudent, as to truſt their Lives and Fortunes to the undiſtinguiſhing Sword of a *Spaniſh* Conqueror; whereas that Gentleman juſtly obſerves, we have now a Sort of People too numerous, that have us'd their utmoſt Efforts to introduce and ſettle among us arbitrary Power and *French* Government.

Country-m. I am ſorry his Obſervation is too true, Maſter; but all this proceeds from the Encouragement given by ſome among us to that Faction. I am of Opinion, that had any of our Subjects been taken in the *Spaniſh* Fleet which came to invade us in 1588, they would ſoon have been brought to Juſtice. Had our Garriſons, or any Part of our Country, been as ill provided, or rather expos'd to the Attemps of the Enemy, as *Scotland* was when the Pretender came with the *French* Fleet upon their Coaſts, the Authors of ſuch a Neglect would not have eſcap'd unpuniſh'd. Had any of our Clergy in thoſe Days, by their Sermons or Pamphlets, ſtruck at the Foundation of Queen *Elizabeth*'s Title, they would have paſs'd their Time but ſorrily. Had ſuch poyſonous Doctrines been publickly encourag'd in our Univerſities, the State would ſoon have thought of proper Methods to purge out the Promoters of 'em; and yet notwithſtanding the peſtilent Faction has been convicted again and again of Aſſaſſination and Invaſion Plots, which were confeſs'd by ſome of them at the Gallows; and tho' her Majeſty was convinc'd, and expreſs'd it in her Speech, that the laſt intended Invaſion was encourag'd from hence, the Hands of Juſtice have been ſo pinion'd, God knows how, that none of them have been made Examples; therefore, Maſter, I ceaſe to wonder at the Boldneſs of the Faction, and at hearing that in more of our publick Offices than one, there are thoſe who eat the Queen's Bread, that can't forbear to teſtify their Uneaſineſs, when God is pleas'd to bleſs her Arms with Succeſs againſt the *French*, and their Joy when they hear of the *French* Advantage over any of the Confederates, as they did lately when the Count *de Bourg* defeated the Elector of *Hannover*'s Detachment under General *Macay*. We have Teſts to keep ſuch from ſerving the Government, who ſcruple ſome Modes and Forms of the publick Eſtabliſhment; but there's none to keep out Men of ſuch a pliable Temper, as can ſwear to the Government, in order to undermine it. Nay, even thoſe who will not give that Security to the Government, are countenanc'd in *Scotland*, to ſet up ſeparate Meetings, and give all the Uneaſineſs they can to the Church there; nay, as if the *Iriſh* Apoſtles of Paſſive-Obedience, the *Dodwells*, *Leſleys*, and *Higgins's*, had been ſuch uſeful and harmleſs Creatures in *England*, another of 'em has now the Boldneſs to ſet up at *Edinburgh* in *Scotland*, on Purpoſe to occaſion Broils and Tumults, where he is bleſs'd with ſuch damnice Rakes, and diſſolute Fellows, to make up the moſt noted Part of his Audience, as the Canons of no Church in *Chriſtendom* would admit for Members: And this is done on Purpoſe to raiſe a falſe Cry of Perſecution againſt that Church for oppoſing it, to foment our Diviſions with the *Scots*, and to baffle the good Deſigns which honeſt Men had in the Union.

Obſ.

Cl. Enough of that Subject, *Roger*. What have you to say farther about the Stage? How do People like the Revival of it?

Country-m. Revival of it, Maſter! It was never dead, but only a-ſleep a little. I find many People extreamly ſcandaliz'd at the opening of it again, eſpecially conſidering the Judgments of Famine, Sword, and Peſtilence, that reign at preſent over ſo great a Part of *Chriſtendom*, the great Price of Corn among our ſelves, the threatening Seaſon that is like to advance it higher, and the Crys of ſo many thouſands of our Poor for want of Bread and Work in all Corners of the Nation. But ſome again are angry with you, and ſay, that what the Fathers or ancient Church of *England* Divines wrote againſt the Stage, does not affect the Play-houſes of our Times, which are reform'd by the Order of the State, and the Care of Mr. *Vanbrugg*, and Mr. *Congreve*, who were appointed by the Court to do it.

Obſ. Every Body muſt commend the Government's Care, *Roger*; but the Queſtion is, How the Play-Houſe has anſwer'd it? The Rev. Mr. *Bedford*, Vicar of *Temple* in *Briſtol* in his Book entitl'd, *The Evil and Danger of Stage-Plays, ſold by Mr.* Mortlock *at the* Phœnix *in St.* Paul's *Church-Yard*, has conſider'd that Matter, examin'd ſeveral of thoſe that are call'd Reform'd Plays, and I think makes it very plain, that they have ſtill the old natural Tendency to deſtroy Religion, and introduce a general Corruption of Manners. To prove this, he has produc'd almoſt 2000 Inſtances from the Plays of the Years 1704 and 1705, that ſtrike againſt all the Methods lately us'd for their Reformation; and I make no doubt, *Roger*, but any Man, who is capable of hanging his Head over ſuch a common Shore of Naſtineſs, may ſoon perceive, that thoſe of the ſucceeding Years are as bad. In the mean Time, *Roger*, I ſhall give you one Inſtance from Page 9. of that Book, which may ſatisfy the World, that however the Players may deſerve the Title of her Majeſty's Servants, they ſcarcely deſerve to be reckon'd faithful ones. The Inſtance is thus, *Roger*, 'Soon after the dreadful Storm of the 26th of *Nov.* '1703, for which her Majeſty appointed a Day 'of Faſting and Humiliation. Her Majeſty was 'pleas'd to ſend a ſtrict and ſolemn Order, to pro-'hibit whatever was offenſive on the Stage, and 'ſuch Diſorders as admitting vizard Masks, and 'Gentlemens going behind the Scences, *&c.* It 'was accordingly read before the Audience, be-'cauſe they dar'd not to refuſe it; but both the Or-'der, and the Actor who read it, were hiſs'd off 'from the Stage. Nor are we to wonder at this manifeſt Contempt of her Majeſty's Authority, ſince we are told Page 6. of the ſame Book, 'That 'though the dreadful Tempeſt above-mention'd, 'fill'd the whole Nation with Fear, Horror, and A-'mazement, yet the prophane Stage made it the 'Subject of their Jeſt a few Days after: and the 'Audience, at the Mention of the Chimneys 'being blown down, in their Play call'd *Mackbeth*, 'Page 20. was pleas'd to clap at an unuſual Length, 'as a Mark of their Pleaſure and Approbation, as 'if they were all agreed to out-brave the Judgment, 'throw Providence out of the Chair, and place the 'Devil in his ſtead.

Country-m. That was blaſpemous Impudence indeed, Maſter, and enough to have laid the Stage under a perpetual Interdict.

Obſ. I am certain, *Roger*, that whatever may be alledg'd in Defence of hiſtorical Repreſentations, there can be nothing ſaid in Defence of acting Vice, or of making our exorbitant and irregular Paſſions the Subject of our Sport and Diverſion, which, by the Laws of God and Man, make us liable to Puniſhment. God has appointed the Order of the Miniſtry, and the Cenſures of the Church, to reform Mens Minds and Manners, and has given the Sword to the civil Magiſtrate, to puniſh Vice, and encourage Vertue, but has no where appointed the Stage for either of thoſe Ends. Therefore any Man of common Reaſon may ſoon be convinc'd, that 'tis Hell, and not Heaven, which patronizes their Imitation, or rather Uſurpation of God's own Ordinances; and every Body muſt own, that the Effects are anſwerable to the Cauſe. Hence it comes to paſs, *Roger*, that the Writers of all Ages, Heathens as well as Chriſtians, are full of the dreadful Abuſes and Diſſolution of Manners, that have been occaſion'd by the Stage; and, to our Shame be it ſaid, never any Nation produc'd a more ſcandalous and vile Set of Plays, than have been printed here ſince the Play-houſe was open'd again after the Reſtoration of King *Charles* the IId.

Advertiſements.

Juſt publiſh'd,

☞ Love without Affectation, in five Letters from a Ne Nun, to a French Cavalier. Done into Engliſh Verſe from the neweſt Edition lately printed at Paris. To which is added, a Preſatory Diſcourſe of the Nature and Uſe of ſuch Epiſtles in general, with the Excellency of theſe in particular; the Time when they were written, the Reaſons why, the true Names and Circumſtances of the Perſons concern'd in them, and undeniable Proofs given of the pretended Anſwers to them (which go under the Name of the Chevalier Del) being ſpurious. Never extant before, and communicated to the Tranſlator in Verſe by unqueſtionable Authorities. Sold by J. Woodward in Threadneedle-ſtreet, and J. Morphew near Stationers-hall. Price 1s.

☞ Hudibras Redivivus; or, a Burleſque Poem on the various Humours of Town and Country. In 24 Parts. By the Author of the London-Spy. Sold by J. Woodward in Threadneedle-ſtreet, near the Royal Exchange, and J. Baker at the Black Boy in Pater-Noſter-Row.

☞ The Circus; or, Britiſh Olympicks, a Satyr on the Ring in Hide-Park. Sold by J. Baker, at the Black Boy in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 6d.

☞ Canary-Birds naturaliz'd in Utopia. A Canto. Dulce eſt paternum ſolum. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-hall. Price 6d.

☞ The extraordinary Succeſs of Mr. William Croſſe, Profeſſor of Phyſick and Oculiſt, at his Houſe againſt Cecil-Street in the Strand, in curing Diſtempers incident to the Eyes, is evident by Teſtimonials frequently inſerted in the publick Prints, under the Hands of ſuch Perſons as have happily experienc'd the ſame, who were by his Preſcriptions, perfectly recover'd, after they had ineffectually apply'd themſelves to others. ☞ There is publiſh'd by the ſaid Mr. Croſſe, A brief Treatiſe of the Eyes, in which not only the Structure of the ſame is Anatomically demonſtrated, but the Diſtempers (which for the moſt part are incident thereto) are likewiſe diſtinctly deſcrib'd. To which is added, ſome particular Directions for preſerving the Sight, &c. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-hall. Price bound 1s.

☞ The Royal Decoction, or a never-failing Diet-Drink againſt the Venereal Diſeaſe. Its wonderful Efficacy is ſuch, that any Patient may be thereby moſt effectually cur'd, be it of never ſo long ſtanding, and aggravated by ineffectual Salivations, and the Body be cover'd with Scabs, Ulcers, Blotches, and the Legs with Holes, all the Limbs with moſt excruciating Pains, the Palate eaten away, and the Noſe fallen in, &c. This Anti-venereal Decoction eaſes all the Venereal Pains in 8 Days, and in 30 Days perfects the whole Cure, and that without the Uſe of Mercury. The Gentleman, who alone prepares this Decoction, offers to enter into an Engagement, from 100 to 500 Pounds, for the Performance of what he promiſes, if any Patient, tho' diſcourag'd by other Practitioners, will come to his Houſe, he will furniſh them with Neceſſaries, as well as Phyſick, for 8 Days, and if by that time he is not ſatisfy'd that he may be perfectly cur'd, he is free to leave it, without paying any thing for Lodging, Diet, or Phyſick. The Taſte of this Decoction is ſo pleaſant, and the Operation ſo kind to Nature, that big-belly'd Women and Sucklings are daily cur'd with it at all the Seaſons of the Year. The Doctor or his Wife are to be ſpoken with at all ſeaſonable Hours, at the Hand and Urinal, over againſt little Turn-ſtile in high Holborn, (late the D. of Leeds's) N.B. The Bill at large is to be ſeen hanging up in the Royal Exchange, London.

☞ Juſt publiſh'd, ☜

QUACKERY UNMASK'D, being a ratio al and effectual Anſwer to Mr. Marten's Treatiſe of the Venereal Diſeaſe, its Appendix, (for publiſhing which, as appears by the Gazette of the 30th of July, he now ſtands indicted) and the charitable Surgeon. Sold (Price 18 d.) by D. Brown without Temple-Bar, G. Strahan in Cornhill, J. Woodward in St. Chriſtopher's Church-yard, B. Barker in Weſtminſter-hall, Booksellers; and by the Author, Dr Spinke, at his Houſe, the Golden Ball in the dark Paſſage, three Doors beyond the Sun Tavern in Honey-Lane Market, Cheapſide. Where alſo may be had. ☞ ANTIVENEREAL-PILLS, &c (the moſt powerful Medicines for that Diſeaſe yet known) Price 3 s. the Box, with Directions.

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